

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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IN RE WESTERN STATES WHOLESALE
NATURAL GAS ANTITRUST
LITIGATION,

MDL Docket No. 1566

Base Case No. 2:03-cv-01431-RCJ-PAL

ORDER

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:
ALL ACTIONS

Before the Court is the parties' Stipulated Protective Order (Dkt. #1152), which the Court approved to facilitate the parties' discovery exchanges. This order is intended to remind counsel and the parties that there is a presumption of public access to judicial files and records. A party seeking to file a confidential document under seal must file a motion to seal and must comply with the Ninth Circuit's directives in *Kamakana v. City and County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172 (9th Cir. 2006).

Although the court approved the blanket protective order, the parties have not shown, and Court has not found, that any specific documents are secret or confidential. The parties have not provided specific facts supported by affidavits or concrete examples to establish that a protective order is required to protect any specific trade secret or other confidential information under Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or that disclosure would cause an identifiable and significant harm. The Ninth Circuit has held that there is a presumption of public access to judicial files and records, thus, parties seeking to maintain the confidentiality of documents attached to non-dispositive motions must show good cause exists to overcome the presumption of public access. *See Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1179. Parties seeking to maintain the secrecy of documents attached to dispositive motions must show compelling reasons sufficient to overcome the presumption of public access. *Id.* at 1180. Under *Kamakana*, the party designating

1 documents confidential should submit a memorandum of points and authorities presenting
2 articulable facts that identify the interests in favor of the documents' continued secrecy and
3 showing that these specific interests outweigh the public's strong interest in transparency.

4 In addition to *Kamakana*, the parties are required to follow the proper CM/ECF
5 procedures for any requests to file documents under seal. Special Order 109 requires the Clerk
6 of the Court to maintain in electronic form the official files for all cases filed on or after
7 November 7, 2005. The electronic record constitutes the official record of the court. Pursuant to
8 LR 10-5 of the Local Rules of Practice, attorneys must file documents under seal using the
9 Court's electronic filing procedures:

10 Unless otherwise permitted by statute, rule or prior Court order, papers filed with
11 the Court under seal shall be accompanied by a motion for leave to file those
12 documents under seal, and shall be filed in accordance with the Court's electronic
13 filing procedures. If papers are filed under seal pursuant to prior Court order, the
14 papers shall bear the following notation on the first page, directly under the case
number: "FILED UNDER SEAL PURSUANT TO COURT ORDER DATED
_____." All papers filed under seal will remain sealed until such time as
the Court may deny the motion to seal or enter an order to unseal them, or the
documents are unsealed pursuant to Local Rule.

15 *See* LR 10-5(b).

16 To streamline the process of sealing or unsealing documents as may be necessary, the
17 parties are instructed to electronically file the documents they want sealed as separate
18 attachments from the main document in CM/ECF. When portions of a filing may be sealed,
19 litigants must not combine their motion, memorandum of points and authorities, declaration,
20 and/or exhibits into one PDF document and then file that single PDF as the "main document" in
21 CM/ECF's document upload screen. This practice makes it impossible for the Clerk of the Court
22 to unseal any documents the Court finds should not be sealed because the docketing clerks
23 cannot separate the pages for sealing purposes. Instead, litigants should save *each* exhibit they
24 want sealed as a separate PDF document and then file each PDF in CM/ECF's document upload
25 screen as "attachments" to a main document. The Court's review of any motion requesting leave
26 to file under seal will be complicated by the parties' failure to properly file their exhibits through
27 CM/ECF.


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1 The shortcut of filing only one PDF inevitably causes additional work for the Court, the
2 clerk's office, and litigants. Should leave to file under seal be granted for some but not all
3 documents, the Court must then order litigants to refile the unsealed documents, rather than
4 simply instructing the clerk's office to unseal the documents the court has found should not
5 remain sealed. Counsel are responsible for instructing their staff regarding the correct
6 procedures for filing documents under seal. For additional direction, the parties may refer to the
7 updated procedures in *CM/ECF Version 4.0 Enhancements and Changes*, which is available on
8 the Court's website, or contact the CM/ECF Helpdesk at (702) 464-5555.

9 Accordingly,

10 **IT IS ORDERED** that the parties shall comply with LR 10-5(b), the Ninth Circuit's
11 opinion in *Kamakana v. City and County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172 (9th Cir. 2006), and the
12 CM/ECF filing instructions stated herein with respect to filing documents under seal.

13 Dated this 23rd day of December, 2015.

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15 PEGGY A. LEEN
16 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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